Abstract of the Disclosure:

A method for exchanging data between a communications unit and a data source of a control system, during which a runtime system comprised of hardware components and software components transfers data between the data source and a communications unit, and a processing chain controls and/or monitors the exchange of data. The process can be modified easily and without interrupting the runtime system. To this end, the invention provides that the processing chain is composed of processing routines, which each have a uniform input interface, whereby the processing routines are called up in succession, and the data of a called up processing routine are fed to the input interface of an immediately subsequent processing routine. In addition, the runtime system manages a dynamic storage area and accesses this storage area in order to establish the sequence with which the processing routines are called up.